

CLAIMS

1. A process for manufacturing flat glass rich in lead oxide, comprising the continuous floating, in a float plant with a neutral gaseous atmosphere, of a glass comprising at least 30% lead oxide by weight on a bath of molten metal having a higher density than that of the glass.
2. The process as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the neutral gaseous atmosphere contains less than 5 ppmv oxygen.
3. The process as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the neutral gaseous atmosphere contains essentially nitrogen.
4. The process as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the temperature of the bath of molten metal is lower than the temperature of a bath of molten metal in a float plant for a soda-lime-silica glass containing no lead.
5. The process as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the temperature of the float glass is between 500 and 800°C.
6. The process as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a molten metal treatment station is associated with said bath.
7. The process as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the glass comprises at least 45% lead oxide by weight.
8. The process as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the glass comprises at least 60% lead oxide by weight.

9. The process as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the glass has a density ranging from 4 to 6.

5 10. The process as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the glass has a density ranging from 4.3 to 5.5.

10 11. The process as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, before the float plant, the glass is melted in a furnace that includes at least one submerged burner.

15 12. The process as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the furnace comprises at least two tanks in series, the second tank being fed with lead oxide.

20 13. The process as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the first tank is equipped with at least one submerged burner and is fed with the batch materials other than lead oxide.

25 14. The process as claimed in either of the two preceding claims, characterized in that the second tank is at a lower temperature than the first tank.

30 15. A flat glass comprising at least 30% lead oxide PbO by weight, manufactured by the process of one of the preceding claims.

16. A flat glass comprising at least 30% lead oxide PbO by weight, enriched on one face with tin.

35 17. The glass as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that it comprises at least 60% lead oxide by weight.

18. The use of the glass of one of the preceding glass

claims for protection against X-rays.